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May 23, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As a former state senator from Salina, KS serving in the Kansas legislature for 21 years, I have long advocated for good public policy that will encourage investment and jobs across the state. I strived to enhance the transportation infrastructure in Kansas by working on improving our highways and roads to help advance the economy of our state. Today, I am writing to voice my support to improve the technology infrastructure in our state by approving the AT&T and T-Mobile merger.

Healthcare is increasingly delivered through broadband technologies – including wireless networks that allow continuous communication of data, voice and video at very high speeds. These technologies are especially important to citizens who live in rural areas. They are also important for senior citizens. Technological innovations that are developing today could allow seniors to stay in their homes longer by using monitoring techniques through their cell phone. This would allow a better standard of living and would significantly reduce medical costs. The merger would allow the deployment of these mobile broadband services sooner which will benefit Kansas especially those residing in rural areas. I encourage you to support this merger.

Cordially,



Ben Vidricksen
Retired Kansas State Senator